

Consumer Council System of Maine Issue Statement

Check One: SCC___ LC_X___ Other___

Name of Group: _Lewiston Local Council_____ **Date:** 12/15/2010_____

The Issue Statement:

Currently, many consumers of mental health services in Maine do not have access to transportation for the purpose of attending peer services oriented activities. Many of these activities are an integral part of effective consumer recovery/rehabilitation plans. Moreover, peer services' related activities have been proven to keep individuals out of hospitals and to be remarkably cost effective regarding over-all medical and mental health recovery from the effects of mental health related illnesses. As free or low cost transportation is available to other low income people in Maine for services which provide recovery from other medical issues, it stands to reason there should be parity observed regarding recovery from mental health issues.

Therefore, transportation should be afforded to consumers for the purpose of attending peer oriented activities at little or no cost to consumers in need.

The Recommendation:

Modify the current transportation and health care reimbursement systems in a way which affords consumers of mental health services transportation to and from peer oriented activities at little or no cost to consumers.

Expected Outcome:

Affordable transportation services will become available to consumers of mental health services in Maine for the purpose of attending peer services oriented activities